

London, November 11. 1701.

A
LETTER

Sent to a

Gentleman in Gloucester shire,

About Electing a

NEW PARLIAMENT.

S I R,

THE *Parliament* is dissolv'd; and it may be presum'd, that the *King* by this Act of *dissolving* them, does plainly tell the Nation, That tho he was for some Reasons prevail'd with to give the *Commons* the Complement of Thanks at the end of the last *Sessian*, yet His Majesty does not so well approve of their *Temper*, *Inclinations* or *Behaviour*, as to think it safe to trust the same Gentlemen any more at a time when our *Religion*, and *Liberties*, nay, perhaps the very *Being* of *England*, and *Fate* of *Europe*, lye at Stake.

The Account you have heard of the *French* and *Spanish Agents* entertaining at Supper *Three Members*, who were forward and Zealous Promoters of the Measures taken by the late *H-- of Commons*, (and who after the common Discourse of *French Money* being distributed among *Parliament-Men*, should have been more Cautious than to keep such Company) shews plainly, that the *French King* and *Pretended Prince of Wales* had too great an Interest among some Men then intrusted by the Nation: And it is visible, that the Delays and Disputes started, and kept up last Winter for By-Ends of Particular Men, did manifestly tend to the Service of *France*; and to make us lose some Allies, who were ready to Enter into proper Measures with us for our Mutual Security: For it was our *dilatory Trifling* that lost *Portugal*, and some of the Princes of the Empire; who, whilst we were amusing our selves about *Impeachments*, were gain'd by *France*.

If the *Parliament*, which will now be chosen, should consist of the *same Persons*, or of *Men of the same Temper* with the former *Parliament*, it will be impossible to perfect or support that *Alliance* which is forming for the Security of *England* and *Europe* against the Power
of

of *France* : That King is now exerting his last and utmost Force, to make himself what he has a long time aim'd at----- *Universal Monarch of Europe* : And, by the *Union of the Spanish Crown*, is now in a fairer way than ever of compassing his *Ambitious Designs*.

The wisest and most discerning Part of Mankind are fully perswaded, that the preventing these *Designs* depends upon the next *Sessions of Parliament* ; and that their Good or Ill *Behaviour* will one way or other decide the *Fate of Europe*.

If the *H--- of Commons* happen to consist of *Wise and Honest Men*, who laying aside *Private Animosities and Disputes*, shall apply themselves to secure the *Publick* in this dangerous *Conjuncture*, ---the *Ballance* (and perhaps quickly the *Peace*) of *Europe* will be restored, our *Trade* will be secured, and *France*, whose *Treasure* is exhausted by *Bribing his Neighbours*, will easily be forced to submit to *Reason*.

But if this next *H--- of Commons* should again fall into *Disputes* about Things which perhaps are altogether *Unnecessary*, (or at least are so in a time of *Danger*) and shall by *Unreasonable Impeachments*, and *Unreasonable Imprisonments*, Trifle, Delay, and Neglect the *Nation's Security*, as last Winter, --- *Venice*, and all the lesser *Princes of Italy*, and of the *Empire*, will by Submission, make their *Peace* with *France*, *Europe* will be *Enslaved*, and *England's best Hopes* will and in being a *Province*, govern'd by the pretended *Prince of Wales*, whilst *France Reigns Sovereign Commander of our Lands*, our *Trade*, our *Purses*, and our *Religion*. Consider then how great a *Weight* depends upon the *Elections* you shall now make.

In some Times and Cases one happy Error may be remedied by future better Conduct ; but if you happen to be deceived in this next *Election*, (which I pray God prevent) *Destruction and Ruin*, I fear, attend too near, to allow us any new *Expedient*.

Germany, Holland, the best part of *Italy*, and of *Europe*, do now with stretched out *Arms*, and repeated *Intreaties*, beseech you will in this *Critical Time* be *Wise* for Them, and for your Selves : And all such *Englishmen*, as love the *Government*, and their *Country*, do join in *Prayers to Almighty God*, that he will make you *Wise* in your *New Choice*.

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